ABSTRACT

A digital signature system includes a database holding access control rules that identify documents authorized users are allowed to have electronically signed and a signing system capable of receiving signature requests from a plurality of authorized users, each signature request including a document to be signed, wherein the signing system parses the document to be signed and compares information obtained thereby to the access control rules stored in the database to determine whether the authorized user is authorized to have the document signed, and wherein if it is determined that the authorized user is authorized to have the document signed, the signing system signs the document using authentication information unique to the signing system.

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